

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH SCHEINUCK,

Plaintiff,

v.

MATTHEW CATE; A.
HEDGEPEETH; M. SEPULVEDA; G.
ELLIS; L. ZAMORA; DR. NYENKE;
K. ALLISON; JOHN AND JANE
DOES,

Defendants.

No. C 11-3418 WHA (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE; DENYING
MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER**

(Docket No. 4)

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, an inmate at the Substance Abuse and Training Facility in Corcoran, California (“SATF”), filed this pro se civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1983. He has been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. Based upon a review of the complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1915A, it is dismissed in part and ordered served upon certain defendants. Plaintiff’s motion for a temporary restraining order is **DENIED**.

ANALYSIS

A. STANDARD OF REVIEW

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims

1 which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek
2 monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* at 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro
3 se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699
4 (9th Cir. 1990).

5 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only “a short and plain statement of the
6 claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” “Specific facts are not necessary; the
7 statement need only” give the “defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds
8 upon which it rests.” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations omitted).
9 Although in order to state a claim a complaint “does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a
10 plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than
11 labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not
12 do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative
13 level.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A
14 complaint must proffer “enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.*
15 at 1986-87.

16 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:
17 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2)
18 that the alleged deprivation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law.
19 *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

20 **B. LEGAL CLAIMS**

21 Plaintiff alleges that after he suffers from chronic back pain. He alleges that he has
22 received x-rays and pain medication, but this did not address his back pain. He alleges that
23 numerous requests for further diagnostic testing, treatment and accommodation have been
24 denied by defendants at SVSP and SATF. When liberally construed, these allegations are
25 sufficient to state a cognizable claim for deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs in
26 violation of the Eighth Amendment.

27 Plaintiff also names Matthew Cate, the Director of the California Department of
28 Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”) as a defendant. Plaintiff does not allege that Cate did

1 anything or that he was involved with plaintiff's medical care. Therefore, plaintiff appears to
 2 be attempting to sue these defendants in their capacity as a supervisor. A supervisor may be
 3 liable under § 1983 upon a showing of personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation or
 4 a sufficient causal connection between the supervisor's wrongful conduct and the constitutional
 5 violation. *Redman v. County of San Diego*, 942 F.2d 1435, 1446 (9th Cir. 1991) (en banc)
 6 (citation omitted). Under no circumstances is there liability under Section 1983 on a
 7 "respondeat superior" liability that would make one defendant responsible for the actions
 8 omissions of a subordinate. *Ibid.* Accordingly, the claims against Cate will be dismissed.

9 C. TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

10 Plaintiff has filed a motion for a temporary restraining order ("TRO"). Prior to granting
 11 a preliminary injunction, notice to the adverse party is required. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(a)(1). A
 12 TRO may be granted without written or oral notice to the adverse party or that party's attorney
 13 only if: (1) it clearly appears from specific facts shown by affidavit or by the verified complaint
 14 that immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage will result to the applicant before the
 15 adverse party or the party's attorney can be heard in opposition, and (2) the applicant's attorney
 16 certifies in writing the efforts, if any, which have been made to give notice and the reasons
 17 supporting the claim that notice should not be required. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). Plaintiff has
 18 neither notified the defendants of his request nor submitted the required certification of his
 19 efforts to do so and why they have failed. Accordingly, he may not obtain a TRO.

20 CONCLUSION

- 21 1. The claims against defendant Cate are **DISMISSED**.
- 22 2. The clerk shall issue summons and the United States Marshal shall serve, without
 23 prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint in this matter with all attachments thereto and a
 24 copy of this order upon defendants: **Warden Hedgepeth, Chief Medical Officer M.**
 25 **Sepulveda, and Chief Executive Officer G. Ellis at Salinas Valley State Prison; L. Zamora,**
 26 **Staff Services Manager at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation**
 27 **Office of Appeals in Sacramento, California; and Dr. Nyenke and Warden K. Allison at the**
 28 **California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran, California.** A courtesy copy

1 of the complaint with its attachments and this order shall also be mailed to the California
2 Attorney General's Office.

3 2. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the court orders as follows:

4 a. No later than ninety days from the date this order is filed, defendants shall file
5 a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If defendants are of the opinion
6 that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the court prior to
7 the date the summary judgment motion is due. All papers filed with the court shall be promptly
8 served on the plaintiff.

9 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion, if any, shall be filed with the
10 court and served upon defendants no later than thirty days from the date of service of the
11 motion. Plaintiff must read the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING," which is
12 provided to him pursuant to *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 953-954 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc),
13 and *Klinge v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988).

14 If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss claiming that plaintiff failed to
15 exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), plaintiff
16 should take note of the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)," which is
17 provided to him as required by *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n. 4 (9th Cir.),
18 *cert. denied*, *Alameida v. Wyatt*, 124 S.Ct 50 (2003).

19 c. Defendants **shall** file a reply brief no later than fifteen days after the date of
20 service of the opposition.

21 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.
22 No hearing will be held on the motion unless the court so orders at a later date.

23 4. All communications by the plaintiff with the court must be served on defendant, or
24 defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the document
25 to defendant or defendant's counsel.


26 5. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
27 No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16-1 is
28 required before the parties may conduct discovery.

1 6. It is the plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the court
2 informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion.
3 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to
4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

5 7. The motion for a temporary restraining order (docket number 4) is **DENIED**.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

7 Dated: August 29, 2011.

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10 WILLIAM ALSUP
11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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NOTICE -- WARNING
(SUMMARY JUDGMENT)

If defendants move for summary judgment, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.

NOTICE -- WARNING
(EXHAUSTION)

If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, they are seeking to have your case dismissed. If the motion is granted it will end your case.

You have the right to present any evidence you may have which tends to show that you did exhaust your administrative remedies. Such evidence may be in the form of declarations (statements signed under penalty of perjury) or authenticated documents, that is, documents accompanied by a declaration showing where they came from and why they are authentic, or other sworn papers, such as answers to interrogatories or depositions.

If defendants file a motion to dismiss and it is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial.